

*Department of State***TELEGRAM**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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4. COMMENT: WHETHER OUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN PHNOM PENH RESULT IN WORKABLE SOLUTION TO A CRITICALLY IMPOR-

TANT PROBLEM AND MOVE US TOWARD FURTHER CONSTRUCTIVE TALKS OR WHETHER EXERCISE WILL PETER OUT IN DISTRUST AND BITTERNESS WILL LARGELY BE DECIDED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN NEXT WEEK OR TEN DAYS. IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT US SHOULD EMERGE WITH A CLEAR AND STRONG PUBLIC POSITION THAT WILL SATISFY HONEST OBSERVERS NOT ONLY IN INDIA AND ABROAD BUT AT HOME THAT USG REALLY MEANS WHAT IT SAYS. PROMPT DECISIONS INCLUDING PINPOINTING ASAP FOR RKG AND ICC AREAS OF CAMBODIA WHICH WE KNOW ARE OCCUPIED BY VC/NVA, PUBLICIZING THROUGH CANADIANS PERSONNEL AND MATERIEL REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO MAKE THIS EXERCISE SUCCESSFUL, AND REAFFIRMING AT THIS KEY MOMENT OUR DESIRE TO ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA WILL, I BELIEVE, MOVE SITUATION IN DIRECTION MUCH MORE FAVORABLE TO US NATIONAL INTERESTS.

GP-3. BOWLES

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